

## TIPS TO FIND A LOST CAT

### 1. Make a “Lost Cat” Sign

Create a sign that has REWARD at the top, a recent color photo of the animal in the centre, and under that your phone number(s). It is very important not to list any other details, so keep information like unusual markings etc to yourself. Especially if they have no tattoo or microchip, so you can use that information to positively identify your cat. Use a large enough sign that it can be seen from cars. If possible laminate it.

Post your sign around the neighbourhood, at local veterinarian offices, and any local animal shelters.

Don't forget that your cat might turn up at local restaurants looking for food. Make sure you give them flyers so they are aware of the missing animal.

### 2. Hit The Streets

Canvass a three block radius around your neighbourhood. It is important to knock on doors to let your neighbours know your situation. Leave a flyer on their door if they aren't home. **Check nearby sheds and garages in case your cat was locked in by accident.** Ask your neighbours to check theirs or listen quietly at these buildings as their meows may be hard to hear. Always look up in trees. It is a common hiding place for scared cats. There is a good chance that your cat has panicked and gone into survival mode and will probably not respond to your calls. They hide in silence so they don't attract any predators, especially if they are hurt or scared. Their instincts tell them it is safer to remain quiet and hidden so they don't attract any attention.

### 3. Contact your Microchip Company

If your cat is microchipped, contact the company to ensure that they have your current information on file in case someone contacts them and so they are aware of the situation.

### 4. Visit Shelters to Search for your Lost Cat

Visit your local animal shelters daily. There are so many staff and volunteers that it is impossible for everyone to know about your situation. If you are looking at the animal rescue sites online don't restrict your information to specifics. It could get listed in other areas.

### 5. Target Websites and Newspapers

Place a Lost Pet ad in your local newspaper and on any Lost and Found pet sites on social media as well as Facebook, Twitter, and any other sites you could utilize.

Ensure you follow up with these sites to see if anyone has made a comment or posted about your cat.

### 6. Ask Commuters or Delivery Drivers.

Provide one of your fliers to drivers with regular routes and ask them to contact you if they think they saw your missing cat. This includes mail carriers, trash collectors, school bus drivers, and delivery truck drivers like FedEx, UPS, etc.



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### 7. Set a Humane Trap

Set a Humane Cat Trap outside your house in a safe area near your front or back porch, steps or deck. Cover the sides with a towel or blanket that has your or your cat's scent on it. Check on the trap frequently at night, but do it discreetly, so as not to scare your cat away. Cats are more active at night so you are more likely to catch them then. Put a bowl of fresh canned food, tuna or sardines and water in the enclosure to lure your cat in. You might catch other animals as well as your own cat. If you do, stand at the back of the trap to let them out. They will generally run away very quickly and not look back. NOTE: it is important to put food only inside the trap. Don't put it anywhere else. If they can get food anywhere else without going into the trap they will.

### 8. Leave their Litterbox Outside

Leave their litterbox outside by both your front and back doors. The familiar scent of their used litter could attract them back home.

### 9. Leave a Window or Door Open

Any time you can, you should leave a door or window open. If your cat does come back to your house this will give it an entry when you are unaware. Make sure the window is low enough for your cat to be able to jump into. You can always ask your neighbours if they are available to keep an eye on your house if you have to step out.

### 10. Contact Homeowners Associations or A Neighbourhood Watch Program.

If you live in a neighbourhood that has a Homeowners Association or Neighbourhood Watch contact a member of their board and ask them to post your cat's information on their website or community boards. They can also send an email to everyone in the community to make them aware. In smaller towns you can let your local RCMP detachment aware of your situation.

### 11. Don't Give Up and Stay Positive.

Actively keep searching for your lost cat no matter how much time has gone by. Lost animals can turn up weeks, months or even years later. Maintain a positive attitude. Cats are very resourceful when it comes to finding what they need to survive.

Please make sure your pet is Spayed or Neutered and Microchipped.

